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# Book Department

## REVIEWS

LOWIE, ROBERT H. *Primitive Society.* Pp. viii, 463. Price, \$3.00. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1920.

The author, an ethnologist, connected with the American Museum of Natural History of New York, is entirely correct in his opening claim that students of the social sciences have long felt the need of a concise and accurate account of the culture of the peoples we call primitive. The reviewer, a teacher of Sociology, is one of a large group who are grateful to Dr. Lowie for his service in writing this book.

Beginning with marriage and the family, the author continues his account of social organizations, through the various kinship groups and other forms of associations to property, government and the administration of justice. In all places many illustrations are given from the four quarters of the earth. The reader is shown the wonderful wealth and diversity of social forms. The reader of the entire book will be quite willing to accept the author's view that social evolution has not followed any given course. The attempts of the research students to explain the phenomena are critically stated and discussed. The layman, indeed, may think that the author spends too much time in this fashion and wish that he had stated his own explanations with less attention to the opinions of others. Taking all things into consideration, the author has been wise in his choice of method. Although the mass of detail will bring its own difficulties to the reader, the author's thought is always clear. Technical expressions are abundant, as might be expected, and unless the reader is pretty familiar with ethnological terms the dictionary will be needed.

Dr. Lowie has performed a real service in making clear how complex the life of more primitive peoples of today is. We have been so accustomed to think of the savage as leading an extremely simple life that it is well for us to realize how many and varied the social relations are into which he enters. It is well to be told in this convincing fashion that in countless cases the bread and butter question is not the dominant influence in his life. We might have been spared many one-sided historical theories had the authors been more familiar with the facts given by our author. In my judgment this book will be found extremely helpful and valuable.

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16

## NOTES

FRIDAY, DAVID. *Profits, Wages and Prices.* Pp. iv, 256. Price, \$2.00. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1919.

This book covers the extraordinary growth of profits during the war period, the uses to which profits were put, the trend in the rate of interest and wages, the division of the products among those who have shared in bringing them forth, the trend of prices since the Armistice, the effect of the new taxes on prices and how real wages may be raised.

The author marshals his facts with skill. His style is interesting and all that he has to say important. It is very refreshing to find such a sane presentation of matters at a time when all those who want somebody else to pay the taxes are spending huge sums in propaganda to get their ideas across.

FRIEDMAN, ELISHA M. *America and the New Era.* Pp. xxx, 500. Price, \$6.00. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1920.

This book attempts to deal with all the complex problems facing the reconstruction period. The authors of the various articles making up the chapters in the book have been chosen with care and the topics are timely. Among the contributors are Frederic C. Howe, Mary Van Kleeck, Francis G. Peabody, Charles B. Davenport, Graham Taylor, Graham Lusk and the Editor of the volume, Elisha M. Friedman.

HUNT, GAILLARD AND SCOTT, JAMES BROWN (Editors). *The Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 Which Framed the Constitution of the United States of America, Reported by James Madison.* Pp. xvii, 731. Price, \$4.00. New York: Oxford University Press, 1920.

The contents of this book are perfectly expressed in its title. The names of the editors, Gaillard Hunt and James Brown Scott, are sufficient guarantee of the care with which Madison's record has been edited.

The Madison papers comprise the original manuscripts of Madison's notes and transcripts of them. This reprint is from the original manuscripts and changes in the transcript are noted in footnotes. In the interest of accuracy the